

Appl. No. 09/829,879
Amendment dated: December 6, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of Nov. 8, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the final office action dated June 8, 2004 and the advisory action dated November 8, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application and claims 1-7 and 14-16 were rejected. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 8-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 7-10 have been amended, and claims 6, 11 and 15-16 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by the amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimura, US 6,188,831 (hereinafter "Ichimura") and Maeda et al., US 5,412,775 (hereinafter "Maeda") for the reasons stated on pages 2-8 of the Office Action. Since claims 6, 11 and 15-16 have been canceled without prejudice, the rejection of claims 6, 11 and 15-16 is moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of the canceled claim 11, which the Examiner indicated includes allowable subject matter. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the combination of Ichimura and Maeda. Claims 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claims 8-10 are believed to be allowable. Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from claim 1, and claims 12-13 depend from claim 9. Thus, these claims are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on claims 1 and 9.

Appl. No. 09/829,879
Amendment dated: December 6, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of Nov. 8, 2004

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is requested.

If there are any charges due in connection with this response, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,
CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

Soonja Bae
Reg. No. (See Attached)
Confirmation No. 7396
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002
Telephone: 860-286-2929
Facsimile: 860-286-0115
PTO Customer No. 23413

Date: December 6, 2004

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE
UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 11.9(b)

Soonja Bae is hereby given limited recognition under 37 CFR § 11.9(b) as an employee of Cantor Colburn LLP to prepare and prosecute patent applications wherein the patent applicant is the client of Cantor Colburn LLP, and the attorney or agent of record in the applications is a registered practitioner who is a member of Cantor Colburn LLP. This limited recognition shall expire on the date appearing below, or when whichever of the following events first occurs prior to the date appearing below: (i) Soonja Bae ceases to lawfully reside in the United States, (ii) Soonja Bae's employment with Cantor Colburn LLP ceases or is terminated, or (iii) Soonja Bae ceases to remain or reside in the United States on an H-1 visa.

This document constitutes proof of such recognition. The original of this document is on file in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Expires: July 22, 2005



William J. Griffin, Acting Director
Office of Enrollment and Discipline